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To: Central Facsimile - USPTO From: Veronika S. Leliever  
Fax: 703.872.9306 Pages: 5  
Phone: 703.308.1202 Date: April 29, 2004  
Re: 03-026 Phone: 203.461.7035

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• Comments:

**FORMAL  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Re: Patent Application Serial No.: 10/790,934  
Attorney Docket No.: 03-026  
Titled: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING REGULAR  
ENTRANCE INTO A BONUS GAME"**

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Facsimile Transmitted (fax no. 703.872.9308)  
to the: Commissioner for Patents, Washington,  
D.C. 20231, on April 29, 2004.

Dated: April 29, 2004

By: *V. S. Leliever*  
Veronika S. Leliever

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*V. S. Leliever*

PATENT

Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,934  
Attorney Docket No.03-026

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OFFICIAL

Applicants: Walker et al.  
Application No.: 10/790,934  
Filed: March 2, 2004  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING REGULAR  
ENTRANCE INTO A BONUS GAME  
Attorney Docket No. 03-026

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Mail Stop No-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, entry of the following amendments into the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

PATENT

Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,934  
Attorney Docket No.03-026

## SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please **REPLACE** the section on page 1, following "**RELATED APPLICATIONS**" with the following:

This application claims priority to commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/451,607, filed March 3, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING REGULAR ENTRANCE INTO A BONUS GAME" which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

This application is a continuation-in-part of:

commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/419,303, filed April 18, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A TIME BASED PAYMENT FROM A GAMING DEVICE"; and is also a continuation-in-part of:

commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/420,066, filed April 21, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EMPLOYING FLAT RATE PLAY"; and is also a continuation-in-part of:

~~commonly owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/414,934, filed April 15, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LINKED PLAY GAMING WITH COMBINED OUTCOMES AND SHARED INDICIA"; and is also a continuation-in-part of:~~

commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/420,981, filed April 22, 2003, entitled "GAMING DEVICE METHOD AND APPARATUS EMPLOYING ALTERNATE PAYOUT FEATURES"; and is also a continuation-in-part of:

commonly-owned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/xxx,xxx (Attorney docket No. 03-005), filed February 26, 2004, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PLAY OF A GAME WITH NEGATIVE OUTCOMES".

Each of the above-referenced applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

PATENT

Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,934  
Attorney Docket No.03-026

The present application is related to commonly owned co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/414,934 filed April 15, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LINKED PLAY GAMING WITH COMBINED OUTCOMES AND SHARED INDICIA"; which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

PATENT

Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,934  
Attorney Docket No.03-026Remarks

The specification has been amended to delete a priority claim to a pending application. No new matter has been added. That pending application remains incorporated by reference, as it was on filing.

Conclusion

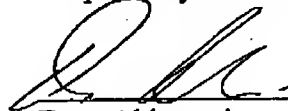
Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney using the information provided below.

Applicants believe no fee is due. Please charge any fees that may be required for this Request, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Order number 03-026. The Commissioner is further authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the submission of this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

Please charge any fees that may be required for this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Dean P. Alderucci at telephone number (203) 461-7337 or via electronic mail at [Dalderucci@walkerdigital.com](mailto:Dalderucci@walkerdigital.com)

Respectfully submitted,



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April 29, 2004

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	123	5572916	1996-11-12	Takano
	124	5989116	1999-11-23	Johnson et al.

## US Published Applications

Note: Applicant is not required to submit a paper copy of cited US Published Applications

init	Cite.No.	Pub. No.	Date	Applicant	Kind	Class	Subclass
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	2	20030101857	2003-06-05	Chuang			

**Signature**

<b>Examiner Name</b>	<b>Date</b>